

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-45 are presently active; Claim 9 has been amended and Claim 45 has been added by way of the present Restriction Response.

The Restriction Requirement asserted that the present invention includes Group I (claims 1-8, and 10-44) and Group II (claim 9), of which the Restriction Requirement identified Species 1 to 15 of Group I that must be restricted if Group I is elected. Further, the Restriction Requirement acknowledged that at least claims 1 and 5 appear to be generic.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, the Applicants provisionally elect Species 1 for further prosecution on the merits, with traverse. Claims 1-8, 10-25, and 38-40 read on the elected Species 1.

The present response amends claim 9 and adds new claim 45 in order to clarify the claimed subject matter.

The Restriction Requirement asserted that the process (as originally claimed) required applying two different DC voltages to an electrode installed in the ring member whereas the apparatus does not specify applying two DC voltages and thus the process could be practiced on a materially different apparatus. However, Applicants submit that the process as defined in the amended claim 9 applies a DC voltage to one or more electrodes to adjust a plasma sheath region above a ring member as in claim 1, and thus cannot be practiced by another materially different apparatus.

Hence, the condition under M.P.E.P. § 806.05(e) predicated the outstanding Restriction Requirement no longer exists and therefore Restriction Requirement should be removed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention defined

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Reply to Restriction Requirement of January 17, 2005

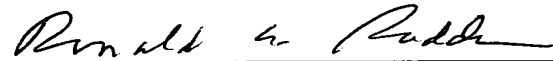
independent claims 1, 5, and 9 should be examined in one application for expeditious and efficient prosecution proceeding and also for a consistent examination.

Further, since claims 1 and 5 are generic claims of Group I (as indicated in the outstanding Restriction Requirement) and read on the elected Species 1, if claims 1 and 5 are allowable, the whole of Group I, i.e., claims 1-8, and 10-44, should also be allowable.

Moreover, given the traversal above, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn and the requirement to elect a species associated with the elected group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-45 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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